

THE LAST
SPEECH and CONFESSION
OF

Robert Bennison,

WHO

Was Executed for High-Treason, near Kingston upon Thames, on Saturday the 23d. of July. 1692.

NOW I have been before my Earthly Judge, who can only Condemn the Body, but cannot hurt the Soul, Lord, I beseech thee when thou Summonest me to appear at the Bar of thy Justice to give an account what I have here done in this Life; be pleased I humbly pray thee to give me a Pardon of all my Sins, and speak Peace to my poor Soul, through Jesus Christ, my blessed Lord and Redeemer.

I am by the Divine permission and Providence of God, become a Spectacle to God, Angels, and Men, for committing that great Crime of Clipping the Current Coin of this Kingdom: I do confess there is too many that use it, but God forgive them and turn their Hearts, and that they may take warning by me for the future, I have been a very great Offender, and have been the occasion of many Persons being Executed for Breaking up Houses in the Night-time, and was in Person my self in Robbing the Parish-Church of St. Saviour Southwark, and Stealing the Plate, the Velvet Pall, the Pulpit-Cloth and Cushion; and likewise the Church of St. Bartholomew the Great. I do acknowledge I have been a great Sinner, and have deserved Death many a time, and have received the late King's Mercy, and this King and Queens not long since, and got it off for Transportation, to Transport my self in half a years time, but before that came, I was so wicked as to follow those base and lewd Courses again, which I had promised to Mr. Smith the Ordinary of Newgate never to do the like again: O wretched Sinner am I, that I should not take warning and amend my Life, which I might have done, but now have brought my self to this untimely end: the Lord pardon and forgive me my Sins, and blot out all my Transgressions for Jesus Christ his sake.

And now let me advise you to have a care you do not break the Sabbath day, a sin which I have been very much guilty of; the product of which, hath brought me to commit several other enormous and very wicked Actions, for which I have deserved Death: Ob! (said he) what miserable and unexpected Mischief do Men bring themselves into by their own private and wicked Devices, being too apt to give way to the Temptations of the Devil, that common Enemy to all Man-kind: Let every good Man take warning by me and such other like Examples that are before you; and let us all pray

to Almighty God to keep us from Temptations in this wicked World: And Ob that you would all make good use of every Example, so that it may ground you the better in the Practice of true Religion and Godliness; let Men have a care of slighting the Mercies of God, and not make a scoff and a mock at it, lest God gives you up to such like Evils as I have been guilty of, and drawn into, and then God will have more Honor, and the Gospel more Credit, and many a Soul will be saved from an Ignominious Death, and Death Eternal. I beg you all to be wary how you order your Lives and Conversations in this World, and consider what a height of sin Men are grown to, and what Power the Devil gets upon Men, especially when they too much yield to his Alurements, in the diversities of his Temptations. So that your Light shineing before Men, they may see your good works, and glorifie your Mather which is in Heaven, so Prays the dying Malefactor,

Robert Bennison.

Dated at Kingston
July 22. 1692.

HIS PRAYER.

MOST Holy and ever Blessed Lord that Inhabitest Eternity and art of purer Eyes than to behold the least Iniquity; I the meanest and the unworthiest of all thy Servants, do here prostrate my self before thy Heavenly Majesty, relying upon the Merits of my blessed Saviour Jesus, Christ, for the acceptance of me and my Petitions: Pardon I beseech thee most Merciful God, all my great and Crying Sins, of what nature soever they be; let the Blood of Jesus Christ wash me and cleanse me from all pollution and filthiness of Flesh and Spirit, that I may be presented pure and holy in thy sight; Sanctifie my Afflictions that they may be to my eternal health: Be with me and support me in all my bitter agonies, fearful apprehensions of Death; And O God most mighty, O holy and merciful Father, thou most mighty Judge Eternal, suffer me not at this my last hour for any pains of Death, to fall from thee, but when I shall have put off this Earthly Tabernacle, in thy great Mercy receive my Soul into thy Heavenly Mansions; that with all those that are departed in the true Faith, I may there enjoy the everlasting blessings of thy Divine Presence, and may have a perfect Consummation and Bliss both in Body and Soul at the last day: Grant this I beseech thee most merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, in whose Name and Words I further call upon thee, saying, Our Father &c.

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